

MSc Applied Psychology: ECAS7009 Applied Research in Psychology

Applied Research Scenarios

Instructions

For each scenario below, work in pairs or small groups to discuss and identify:

- a) Research Design Choices
- b) Data Analysis Choices
- c) Ethical Considerations

Use the group discussion prompts to guide your conversation. Record your responses and be prepared to share your reasoning with the class.

Scenario 1: Workplace Stress and Remote Working

A company wants to understand how remote working affects employee stress levels and productivity.

Discussion Prompts:

- - What are the advantages and limitations of using self-report measures in this context?
- - How might organisational culture influence the data collected?
- - What ethical concerns arise when researching employees within a company?

Scenario 2: Social Media Use and Adolescent Self-Esteem

You are investigating the relationship between time spent on social media and self-esteem in adolescents aged 13–17.

Discussion Prompts:

- - How would you ensure the reliability and validity of self-esteem measures?
- - What role might parental influence or school environment play in this research?
- - How can you protect vulnerable participants during and after the study?

Scenario 3: Cognitive Training for Older Adults

You are evaluating the effectiveness of a cognitive training app on memory performance in adults aged 65+.

Discussion Prompts:

- - What challenges might arise in recruiting and retaining older participants?
- - How would you control for placebo effects in this study?
- - What ethical considerations are specific to working with older adults?

Scenario 4: Bystander Intervention in Bullying

You want to explore what factors influence university students' likelihood to intervene in bullying situations.

Discussion Prompts:

- - How can you design realistic but ethically sound scenarios?
- - What psychological constructs might influence intervention behaviour?
- - How would you manage potential distress caused by the study materials?

Scenario 5: Mental Health Support in Refugee Populations

You are assessing the impact of community-based mental health interventions on psychological wellbeing in refugee populations.

Discussion Prompts:

- - What cultural factors must be considered in designing the study?
- - How would you ensure the trust and safety of participants?
- - What are the implications of conducting research in potentially unstable environments?

Overall Reflection Questions

- - Which scenario did your group find most challenging and why?
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- - How do ethical considerations influence your research design choices?
- - What role does context play in selecting appropriate data analysis methods?